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Acting Director´s Report to the National Advisory Mental Health Council

May 10, 2002

HONORS AND AWARDS

NIMH GRANTEES

Dr. Kelly N. Botteron, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for improving the understanding of the brain substrates of mood and other disorders in children and adolescents through the use of neuroimaging in combination with genetic strategies. Dr. Botteron's expertise in child psychiatry, neuroimaging, and genetics holds enormous potential for unraveling the neurobiology of complex disorders, particularly those beginning in childhood.

Drs. Avshalom Caspi and Terrie E. Moffitt, both at the University of Wisconsin, were the co-recipients of the John P. Hill Memorial Award from the Society for Research on Adolescence at its biennial meeting held in New Orleans in April 2002. The award is given "in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding work that has significantly contributed to the understanding of adolescent development and behavior."

Dr. William Fisher, University of Massachusetts Medical School, was awarded the Mental Health Section Award by the American Public Health Association. He also was voted Chair-Elect of the Mental Health Section and will take office in 2003.

Dr. John K. Kruschke, Indiana University, received the 2002 Troland Research Award from the National Academy of Sciences for his experimental and computational work on human concept formation, learning, and attention.

Dr. Daniel T. Levin, Kent State University, received the 2001 Young Investigator Award from Division 3 (Experimental Psychology) of the American Psychological Association for his paper "Race as a Visual Feature: Using Visual Search and Perceptual Discrimination Tasks to Understand Face Categories and the Cross-Race Recognition Deficit," *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 129: 559-574, 2000.

Dr. Taryn Lindhorst, Louisiana State University, was a recipient of the Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation award from the Society for Social Work and Research for her work "The Effect of Domestic Violence on Welfare Use, Employment and Mental Health: A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis."

Dr. Carol T. Mowbray, University of Michigan School of Social Work, was a co-recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Research Award of the Society for Social Work and Research for the article "Analysis of Participation in an Innovative Psychiatric Rehabilitative Intervention: Supported Education," Bybee, D., Bellamy, C., & Mowbray, C. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 23:41-52, 2001.

Dr. Enola K. Proctor, Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, was awarded the 2002 Distinguished Achievement Award by the Society for Social Work and Research. The award recognized Dr. Proctor's outstanding contributions to advancing the state of social work research, its utilization, and its integration with practice through her exemplary scholarship and research.

Dr. Ruth Striegel-Moore, Wesleyan University, received the Research Contributions Award at the First Annual Awards Ceremony of the Eating Disorders Coalition.

Dr. Carol A. Tamminga, University of Maryland, was elected President-Elect of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP).

Dr. C. Dominique Toran-Allerand, Columbia University, was the recipient of the 2002 Avery Steelman Award. She delivered

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the 11th Annual Steelman Lecture on March 5 and 6 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Toran-Allerand gave two presentations: "Estrogen and the Brain: A Hormone for All Seasons" and "Novel Sites and Mechanisms of Estrogen Action in the Developing Brain: ER-X, New Player in an Old Story."

Dr. Duane Wegener, Purdue University, received a 2001 Award for Distinguished Scientific Early Career Contributions to Psychology from the American Psychological Association. This award recognized Dr. Wegener's innovative research on biases and bias-correction processes in information processing and social judgment.

NIMH STAFF

Dr. Matthew V. Rudorfer, Division of Services and Intervention Research (DSIR), was awarded the 2002 William A. Console, M.D. Award in Psychiatry by the Alumni Association of the College of Medicine, State University of New York (SUNY) Health Science Center at Brooklyn. This award is presented annually to an alumnus of the SUNY-Downstate Medical School based on achievement and teaching ability in psychiatry. Presentation of the award took place on April 27 in New York following an alumni scientific program, at which Dr. Rudorfer presented a talk on new treatments for depression.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (OD)

Research in Response to Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has awarded new grants for research on mental health needs resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11. NIMH funded these studies through its Rapid Assessment Post Impact of Disaster (RAPID) grants program, which solicits and expedites pilot projects.

NIMH has a long-standing commitment to the study of the mental health effects of exposure to trauma and violence. The goal for the RAPID grants is to fund small projects that promise, in a relatively short timeframe, to yield information helpful to the design of large-scale studies on prevention and treatment of mental illnesses resulting from exposure to mass trauma. The RAPID grants program has been in place for many years and has allowed for the collection of information to better understand both the consequences of mass violence as well as efforts to reduce suffering.

RAPID grants awarded include studies by:

- Drs. David Vlahov and Gerry Fairbrother, New York Academy of Medicine, to conduct surveys of the New York metropolitan area to determine what effects the 9/11 attacks have had on symptoms, mental disorders, and use of mental health services.
- Dr. Rose Zimering, Boston University, to assess post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in clinicians who treated survivors of the attacks.
- Dr. Cynthia Pfeffer, Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital, to examine whether major acute stress from the death of a child's parent is associated with increased activity in stress hormones, symptoms of psychiatric disability, and physical growth.
- Dr. Charles Marmar, San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, to compare the effects of a brief cognitive behavioral therapy to the usual treatment for New York City disaster relief workers with full or sub-threshold PTSD diagnoses related to the World Trade Center (WTC) terrorist attacks.

In addition, NIMH has awarded six supplements to grants so that the investigators can gather new information specific to the 9/11 events as described below:

- Dr. Hector Bird, New York State Psychiatric Institute, is conducting a longitudinal study of mental health of Hispanic boys and girls and their caregivers and will use the supplemental funding to focus on levels of child and caregiver symptoms of depression, PTSD, and other anxiety disorders before and after the 9/11 events, changes in patterns of service use, and expressed need for services.

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- Drs. Edna Foa and Rachel Yehuda, University of Pennsylvania and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, are involved in a collaborative study of biological and psychological associations among PTSD symptoms in patients with chronic PTSD. The supplement will help clarify differences in psychobiology between chronic cases of PTSD and those occurring in the immediate aftermath of a trauma.

- Dr. Jerrold Rosenbaum, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, is studying children at risk for anxiety disorders based on a range of individual vulnerability and environmental factors and will select a subsample from this group to study the effects of various degrees of exposure to the 9/11 events.

- Dr. Joseph LeDoux, New York University, has been studying how stress can trigger mental disorders and will conduct neuroimaging studies of changes in the brain following the WTC terrorist attacks. This research is expected to generate new tools for testing people with anxiety/fear-related disorders, providing windows into more effective prevention and treatment.

- Dr. Daphine Simeon, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, will include survivors of the WTC attacks in an ongoing New York-based study of psychobiological factors thought to determine whether trauma exposure results in PTSD or a dissociative disorder. Findings are expected to improve understanding of neurobiological malfunction resulting from traumatic stress and help to design different types of prevention, early intervention, and long-term treatment.

- Dr. Joann Difede, New York Presbyterian Hospital, is studying an intervention to prevent chronic PTSD in adult burn patients, many of whom were rescued from the WTC on 9/11. The supplement will enable Dr. Difede's team to expand their research to include most if not all survivors of the WTC attacks.

It is important to learn what we can from these terrible tragedies. New mental health research supported with RAPID-type grants and supplements to ongoing studies will help reduce suffering, inform how we can avoid mental health complications, improve national response, and better address disaster consequences in the future.

New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

On April 29, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, President Bush pledged support for increased mental health insurance coverage (see **http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/04/20020429-1.html)**. The President said insurers should treat "serious" mental illness "like any other disease." He also said, "Our country must make a commitment: Americans with mental illness deserve our understanding, and they deserve excellent care. They deserve a health care system that treats their illness with the same urgency as a physical illness." The President said that, although we have treatments that work, there are three obstacles to people receiving excellent care for mental illnesses: the stigma that often surrounds mental illness, our fragmented mental health service delivery system, and the "often unfair treatment limitations placed on mental health in insurance coverage." The President said he would work with leaders in Congress to reach an agreement on providing mental health parity this year.

The President also announced the establishment of his New Freedom Commission on Mental Health that had been originally outlined in his New Freedom Initiative. The Commission will be composed of a maximum of 15 members appointed by the President, including providers, payers, administrators, and consumers of mental health services and their family members; a maximum of 7 ex-officio members, 4 of whom will be designated by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary; and 1 member to be designated by the Secretary of the Department of Labor, 1 member to be designated by the Secretary of the Department of Education, and 1 member to be designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The President appointed Dr. Michael Hogan to be the Chair of the Commission. Dr. Hogan is a former member of the National Advisory Mental Health Council and has been Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health for more than 10 years. The Commission will conduct a comprehensive study of the U.S. mental health service delivery system, including public and private sector providers, and advise the President on methods of improving the system. The Commission's goal will be to recommend improvements to enable children and adults with serious mental illness to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. The Commission will also identify innovative mental health treatments, services, and technologies that are demonstrably effective and can be widely replicated in different settings.

Elias Zerhouni, M.D., Confirmed to be NIH Director

On March 26, in Washington, DC, President Bush announced the nomination of Dr. Elias Zerhouni to the directorship of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Zerhouni is Executive Vice Dean of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He also is Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering and Chairman of the Russell H. Morgan Department of

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Radiology and Radiological Science at Johns Hopkins. On April 30, when the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee convened to hear him speak, Dr. Zerhouni discussed his three perspectives about the current state of the biomedical sciences: that only further fundamental discovery will allow us to meet the healthcare challenges facing us; that we need to bring the fruits of our research to clinical testing more rapidly and enhance our ability to prevent and detect disease much earlier; and that biomedical research is at an important turning point that may require new strategies. On May 2, Dr. Zerhouni was confirmed by the Senate to be NIH Director.

Brain Awareness Week

NIMH participated again this year in Brain Awareness Week activities from March 11 to 17. NIMH, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) hosted hands-on activities for school age children at the National Museum of Health and Medicine at Walter Reed Hospital from March 13 to 14. "The Brain, The Body, and Aging," a health seminar for older Americans to learn more about brain-related conditions such as depression, vision problems, and memory loss, was organized by NIA on March 11 and March 15 at the University of Maryland Shady Grove Center. On both days, staff members from NIMH, NINDS, NIDA, NIA, NIAAA, the National Eye Institute (NEI), and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) shared their knowledge, and participants learned how to find information online in computer training sessions.

Mental Health Liaison Group

Drs. Richard Nakamura and Junius Gonzales made a presentation to members of the Mental Health Liaison Group about NIMH's extensive health services research portfolio. Representatives from 14 different organizations participated.

May Is Mental Health Month

For more than 50 years, the National Mental Health Association (see **http://www.nmha.org**), has designated May as Mental Health Month in an effort to educate the American public about mental health and mental illness. Its theme for this year's observance, Mental Health Matters-Now More than Ever, emphasizes the key role that mental health plays in people's lives, especially in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. At NIH, anxiety disorders screening was offered to all NIH employees on May 2 (the day after National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day). The screening was sponsored by the NIH Work and Family Life Center and NIMH, with support from the Employee Assistance Program.

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee Meeting

The Children's Health Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-310), Title I, Section 104, mandated the establishment of an Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) to coordinate research and other efforts on autism within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other agencies of the Federal Government. The HHS Secretary delegated the authority to establish the IACC to the NIH, and NIMH was designated the lead for this activity. The next IACC meeting will be held on May 24 and is open to the public (see **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/events/interagencyautism.cfm**).

Testimony on Autism before the Committee on Government Reform

Dr. Stephen Foote, Director, Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science (DNBBS), NIMH, testified on April 18 before the Committee on Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss "The Autism Epidemic - Is the NIH and CDC Response Adequate?" The NIH witness was asked to address the recent Report to Congress on Autism and implementing the Children's Health Act of 2000, P.L. 106-310 (see **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/events/autismreport.pdf**). This report was prepared for the signature of the Secretary of DHHS. In addition, the testimony included research into treatments. Dr. Foote was selected to testify not only because of his role as director of a research division with a portfolio of autism research but also because he is serving as the interim Executive Secretary of the HHS IACC described above. In addition, he is a scientific program staff member delegate to the internal NIH Autism Coordinating Committee, a long-standing body that directs NIH-wide collaboration on autism research.

John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center

Long-range NIH plans to replace an aging neuroscience research building (Building 36) on the NIH campus are coming to fruition with the scheduled opening of the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center (PNRC) in fiscal year (FY) 2007. To be named after former Congressman John Edward Porter (R-IL), the new center will serve as a state-of-the art

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research facility housing topflight scientists from 10 NIH components involved in brain-related research: NIMH, NINDS, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIDCD, the National Human Genome Research Institute, NEI, NIA, NIDA, NIAAA, and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Not only will the building be new, so will the approach to the administration of space and other resources within the building, which will be managed as an inter-Institute resource. It is hoped that research performed in this building will help lead to a better understanding of the brain, as well as to better methods to diagnose, treat, and even prevent such brain-related disorders as schizophrenia, depression, stroke, and Parkinson's disease. There are four themes around which the work is being organized in the first phase of the PNRC: channels, synapses, circuits; development, degeneration, plasticity; neurogenetics; and mood and cognition.

To date, plans for building construction are within budget and on schedule. Building 35 (a cafeteria) has been demolished, and the footings are now being laid for the PNRC. Phase I of the PNRC is due to open in January 2004. Planning of the laboratory space is expected to be completed by June 1, 2002.

The Research Coordination Council

The Research Coordination Council is an arm of the DHHS established by the Secretary. Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) Bobby Jindal chairs the group, which met for the first time on March 15. The Council is an element of the Secretary's "One Department" initiative. The purpose is to enhance coordination of research activities across the Department and to establish research priorities to ensure efficient and effective use of funds. Avoiding duplication of efforts is a main goal as well as ensuring consistency with the President's and Secretary's priorities. The Council, which will meet quarterly, covers DHHS research, demonstration, and evaluation activities solicited through Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Requests for Proposals (RFPs). The Council will develop "research themes based on the President's and Secretary's priorities for guidance to agencies in their planning." Initially, four interagency workgroups will be established: Human Services Research; Disability, Aging and Long Term Care Research; Health Research; and Applied Science Research. An ASPE Deputy Assistant Secretary will lead each workgroup. The research themes will be used for the FY 2004 budget process. The themes will be organized under the following Administration priorities: Working Toward Independence; Rallying the Armies of Compassion; No Child Left Behind; Promoting Active Aging and Improving Long-Term Care; Protecting and Empowering Specific Populations; Helping the Uninsured and Increasing Access to Health Insurance; Realizing the Possibilities of 21st Century Health Care; Ensuring Our Homeland is Prepared to Respond to Health Emergencies; Understanding Health Differences and Disparities-Closing the Gaps; and Preventing Disease, Illness, and Injury.

New Funding Opportunities

See Appendix, "NIMH Funding Opportunities."

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Parade Magazine had a cover story on May 5 on teen depression. The article provided information about a variety of programs to help with diagnosis and treatment, including the NIMH Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study (TADS).

A *Wall Street Journal* story on April 25 included information on the RAPID grants that were funded by NIMH in response to the events of September 11.

NIMH collaborated with the National Sleep Foundation to host the National Sleep Awareness Week conference in Washington, DC, in April.

NIMH Exhibit Program: January 2002-May 2002

The Information Resources and Inquiries Branch of the Office of Communications administers the NIMH Exhibit Program. During FY 2002, NIMH will be exhibiting at or sending material to approximately 30 meetings, conferences, and health fairs throughout the country (see listing below).

Meetings and Conferences

- Brain Awareness Week, NIH, Rockville, MD

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- Anxiety Disorders Association of America, Austin, TX
- National Hispanic Medical Association, Washington, DC
- Student National Medical Association, Houston, TX
- Georgetown University Powwow, Washington, DC
- NIMH Constituency Outreach and Education Program, Washington, DC
- Human Brain Project/Neuroinformatics, NIH
- American Psychiatric Association, Philadelphia, PA

Health Fairs

- Women's Heart Day, Washington, DC
- NIH African American Month, Bethesda, MD
- NIH Science Education Program, four science teachers' conferences, Bethesda, MD
- National Science Teachers Association Regional Conference, Salt Lake City, UT
- National Middle School Association, Washington, DC
- National Association of Biology Teachers Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada
- National Science Teachers Association Regional Conference, Memphis, TN

Constituency Outreach and Education Program Annual Meeting (COEP)

The NIMH COEP is a nationwide communications initiative that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to help close the gap between mental health research and practice and reduce the stigma of mental illness (see **www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov**). The program is a key element in a broader effort by NIMH to deliver science-based information on mental health to the public and to health professionals and thus improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses among all Americans-including underserved populations such as minority groups, children, and older people. The third annual meeting was held April 28-30 in Washington, DC. Outreach Partner representatives from all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated, as well as more than 25 representatives from the program's Education Network organizations. Participants heard a keynote presentation about NIMH research from Dr. Nakamura, a panel presentation on mental disorders in children and adolescents, and a panel presentation on schizophrenia. More than 20 Outreach Partners presented posters illustrating the use of NIMH information and materials in outreach to gatekeepers for children and adolescents and to minority populations. Information about the COEP is available at www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov.

OFFICE ON NEUROINFORMATICS (ONI)

The NIMH Office on Neuroinformatics organized a panel presentation on "Structural Databases" at the Winter Conference on Brain Research in January 2002. The presentations by this panel demonstrated powerful new tools and approaches available through neuroinformatics for understanding functional/structural relationships and the enhanced efficiency of science attainable through their development and utilization.

Dr. Stephen Koslow chaired the sixth "Global Science Forum Neuroinformatics Working Group Meeting" in February 2002. The reports from those delegates attending from 15 countries indicated broad and increasing government support for database initiatives. The Global Neuroinformatics Portal, being created in Berlin, is up and running but is still under construction. The draft final report to the Global Science Forum was extensively modified and redrafted. This meeting took place in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Koslow participated in a symposium at the Australian Neuroscience Society on Databasing the Brain where he gave a talk "The Human Brain Project (HBP): Data to Knowledge." Dr. Koslow also presented an overview of the HBP grants and activities at the Howard Florey Institute, University of Melbourne, "Neuroscience Informatics-From Genes to Cells to Brain" meeting.

The Principal Investigators of the HBP met in March 2002 for their annual 2-day meeting to discuss opportunities for enhancing the HBP initiatives and goals. The Neuroanatomy Ontology Working Group met in April 2002 and provided advice and consultation on creating a 2D and 3D structural ontological database for four mammalian species.

The April 2002 issue of *Nature Reviews Neuroscience* featured five articles on data sharing. Dr. Koslow presented his data-sharing perspective "Sharing Primary Data: A Threat or Asset to Discovery?" *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 3: 311-313, 2002.

OFFICE FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS (OSP)

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In concert with the action plan objectives of the recently published Council workgroup report entitled "**Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Mental Health Research Careers**," which can be found at http:www.nimh.nih.gov/council/diversity.pdf, OSP continues to vigorously pursue opportunities to inform the scientific community, the public, and constituency groups about research, research training, and clinical trial opportunities that affect all Americans. A sample of those efforts is presented below.

Meetings/Conferences/Colloquia

On February 14, 2002, Drs. Ernest Marquez and Robert Mays were visited by Dr. Ross Primm, President, Nebraska Indian Community College, Macy, Nebraska, and Dr. Donna Polk-Primm, Executive Director, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska. The purpose of the visit was to explore methods of generating increased Native American participation in mental health research capacity-building initiatives and increasing Native American participation in mental health clinical trials.

On February 22, 2002, Drs. Marquez and Mays, in conjunction with Dr. Walter Goldschmidts, DNBBS, and Dr. Marc Chavez, Division of Mental Disorders, Behavioral Research and AIDS (DMDBA), represented NIMH and NIH at the 11th Annual National Conference of the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Mathematics, Science, and Engineering (MSE) Network, in Washington, DC. Drs. Marquez, Cliff Poodry, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and John Fakunding, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, presented to the faculty and staff from more than 35 minority-serving colleges and universities the variety of research and research-training opportunities available to constituents of the QEM/MSE Network. The conference provided an excellent "bridging" opportunity to address the importance of expanding translational research efforts among mathematic, engineering, and mental health scientists, as well as the importance of national minority mentorship networks.

On March 21, 2002, Drs. Marquez and Mays and Mr. Sherman Ragland accompanied NIMH Acting Director Dr. Richard Nakamura to the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Conference in Washington, DC. Dr. Nakamura gave information to presidents, deans, and administrators of historically black colleges and universities about mental health research, research training, research capacity development opportunities, and the need for greater racial and ethnic minority representation in mental health clinical trials.

The 2lst NIMH Career Opportunities in Research Education (COR) National Colloquium Meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on April 10 to 14 (see **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/osp/cor2001.cfm**). The annual Colloquium is a unique opportunity for outstanding minority undergraduates in the NIMH-funded COR scholars program at 17 sites across the United States to demonstrate knowledge and research skills they have acquired during the COR undergraduate training. National leaders in health science research and administration update the participants on national training issues and key scientific initiatives in the field of mental health. The colloquium, sponsored by NIMH, was coordinated by Mr. Ragland and hosted by Dr. Celia Wolk Gershensen, University of Minnesota. Dr. Marquez provided the opening welcome comments and Dr. Mays (COR Program Director) delivered the introduction to the colloquium address. The 170 racial and ethnic minority undergraduate honors students represented 22 colleges and universities that have student bodies composed of at least 33 percent racial and ethnic minorities. The students presented poster sessions across the research domains of neuroscience, behavioral science, clinical and social sciences, and public health. The students received information about research-training opportunities from NIMH training directors Dr. Walter Goldschmidts and Dr. Barry Kaplan (Office of Fellowship Training, NIMH Intramural Research Program), as well as from training directors from professional organizations, such as the American Psychological Association and the Council on Social Work Education. The students also were linked with 12 recruiters representing graduate programs from across the Nation; all had the opportunity to discuss personal barriers and impediments to seeking a graduate research education. The colloquium's plenary speakers included Dr. Hector Meyers, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Dr. Michelle Colley, Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Stephen Lopez, UCLA. The banquet speaker was the Honorable Michael Davis, U.S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota. The closing remarks for the colloquium, provided by Dr. Nakamura, were considered by many of the students to be the presentation that had the greatest impact on them.

Women's Mental Health Program Activities

On February 21-23, NIMH co-sponsored a meeting with the American Psychological Association on interdisciplinary women's health. The meeting "Enhancing Outcomes in Women's Health: Translating Psychosocial and Behavioral Research into Primary Care, Community Interventions, and Health Policy" focused on the mental health and behavior contributors to the outcomes of diseases that are major causes of disabilities of women, such as arthritis and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Mary Blehar, Chief of the NIMH Women's Mental Health Program, was a member of the meeting's planning committee.

On February 20-23, NIMH sponsored a New Investigators program at the annual meeting of North American Society for

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Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology in Cancun, Mexico. During the program, chaired by Dr. Blehar, six junior investigators made presentations on their women's mental health research.

Dr. Blehar made a presentation summarizing the status of research findings on postpartum depression at an April 15 meeting of an advisory committee to the HHS Secretary in Washington, DC. The committee on infant mortality advises the Secretary on issues related to infant mortality and the health of pregnant women and infants. The NIMH presentation was paired with one by Maribeth Badura, Director, Division of Perinatal Systems and Women's Health, who discussed the Health Resources and Services Administration initiatives to screen for postpartum depression in women receiving services through that agency's Healthy Start program.

Publications

Boyd, R.C., Pearson, J.L., & Blehar, M.C. "Prevention and treatment of depression in pregnancy and the postpartum period-summary of a maternal depression roundtable: a U.S. perspective." *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 3:79-82, 2002. This article summarizes the proceedings of a roundtable sponsored by NIMH in January 2001. NIMH plans to hold an international meeting on perinatal depression in early July 2002.

Mazure, C.M., Keita, G.P., & Blehar, M.C. "Summit on Women and Depression: Proceedings and Recommendations," Washington, DC: American Psychological Association (available online at **http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/women&depression.pdf**). The report summarizes an October 2000 meeting that featured contributions of over 35 internationally known experts in depression research. NIMH was a major contributor to the meeting. The report summarizes papers comprising four panels that covered: (1) the etiology of sex and gender differences in depression; (2) the treatment of depression in women; (3) the treatment and prevention of depression in special populations of women; and (4) services for depressed women. NIMH grantees Drs. Susan Nolen-Hoeksema, A. John Rush, Ellen Frank, and Jeanne Miranda were speakers in each of these areas, respectively. Dr. Blehar was a member of the scientific program committee.

DIVISION OF MENTAL DISORDERS, BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH AND AIDS (DMDBA)

Meetings /Conferences

On January 11, Dr. Regina James presented on the role of NIMH in child welfare research at the Third Conference on Foster Care and Mental Health, which was jointly organized by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Child Welfare League of America in Washington, DC.

Dr. Wayne Fenton addressed the Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry at the winter American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) meeting in January 2002.

Dr. Fenton gave a keynote address at the meeting of the International Society for Psychological Treatment of Psychosis (ISPS) in Stavanger, Norway, in January 2002.

On January 30, the Center for Mental Health Research on AIDS (CMHRA) organized a workshop entitled "The Effects of Psychological Variables on the Progression of HIV Disease." This goal of this workshop was to review what is known about the relationship between stress and HIV disease progression in order to identify key questions for future research that will increase our understanding of the biological mechanisms mediating these effects. A meeting report detailing the content of the speakers' presentations as well as the future research directions based on the participants' discussions will be developed by the CMHRA staff, Drs. Jeymohan Joseph, Fred Altman, David Stoff, and Kathy Kopnisky.

On February 24-28, Dr. Joseph attended the 9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections held in Seattle. The conference is a research meeting created to provide a forum for basic and clinical science investigators to present, discuss, and critique developments in the field of human retrovirology and related opportunistic complications.

On March 5, Drs. Joseph and Dianne Rausch organized a meeting entitled "Setting Research Priorities for the National NeuroAIDS Tissue Consortium" in Bethesda. This meeting, which was attended by renowned neuropsychologists, neurologists, and neuropathologists, included discussions of cutting-edge research questions that could be addressed using the unique resources of the National NeuroAIDS Tissue Consortium.

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In March, Dr. James gave a presentation entitled, "Addressing the Decline of Physician Scientist in Mental Health Research" at the 31st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Training at Long Beach, California.

In March, Dr. Wayne Fenton addressed the Directors of Divisions of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the spring meeting of the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Florida.

Dr. Fenton served as NIH representative and co-chair of the Montgomery County, Maryland, Blue Ribbon Task Force to Assess the Public Mental Health System, September 2001, and reported findings and recommendations to the Montgomery County Council in March 2002.

On April 2, Drs. Christopher Gordon of CMHRA and Ronald Abeles of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research co-chaired the meeting "Innovative Adherence Research Priorities" that had been organized by Dr. Gordon at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Drs. Timothy Cuerdon and Robert Heinssen also participated in the meeting, which highlighted current trends and issues in adherence research and illuminated promising new research directions.

On April 5, Dr. Peter Muehrer chaired a grant-writing session on comorbid mental and physical disorders at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Convention in Washington, DC.

On April 12, Drs. Nakamura and Fenton addressed the initial meeting of an NIMH-sponsored Institute of Medicine study to address issues in clinical research training for psychiatry. The study is entitled, "Enhancing Research Training in Psychiatric Post-Graduate Education."

On April 15-16, in Washington, DC, Drs. Ellen Stover and Fenton, in cooperation with co-chairs Drs. Dennis Charney and A. John Rush, convened a workshop "Assessment of Depression and Anxiety in Depression Treatment Trials." The meeting involved participants from academia, government, industry, and advocacy associations to review the state of the art in assessment of depression as a dependent variable in treatment trials. Five workgroups focusing on the biological basis of depression, depression outcome in psychotherapy, treatment trials in children and adolescents, pharmacotherapy trials in adults, and the role of anxiety in depression, provided recommendations to the NIMH.

On April 22-23, the CMHRA held a workshop on "Mental Health Research Issues in HIV Infection and Aging" in Washington, DC (co-sponsored with NIDA and NIA). The goal of the workshop was to identify the most relevant questions for research focused on the mental health issues among older adults (greater than 50 years of age) and infected with HIV, an age population that has been overlooked or ignored by many throughout the pandemic. This workshop focused on basic and clinical research to further understand and develop treatments for the neurocognitive and neurobehavioral complications in HIV-infected older adults with or without mental disorder and substance abuse comorbidities. Neurocognitive, neuroimaging, neurovirological, neuropathogenesis, neurological, medical, psychiatric, and treatment data were reviewed and analyzed.

Dr. Regina Dolan-Sewell chaired a symposium "Mental Health Sequelae Following Traumatic Events: Recognition and Prevention" and also served as the discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine in San Antonio. She also presented a paper "Post-Trauma Reactions: Definitions and Risk Factors" at that meeting.

Staff Publications

Bastain, T.M., Lewczyk, C.M., Sharp, W.S., James, R.S., Long, R.T., Eagen, P.B., Ebens, C.L., Meck, J.M., Chan, W., Sidransky, E.R., Rapoport, J.L., & Castellanos, F.X. Cytogenetic Abnormalities in ADHD. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, in press.

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Colpe, L. Estimates of Mental and Emotional Problems, Functional Impairments, and Associated Disability Outcomes for the U.S. Child Population in Households. In: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services. "Mental Health, United States, 2000," Manderscheid, R.W. & Henderson, M.J., eds. DHHS Pub No. (SMA)

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Heinssen, R.K. Improving Medication Compliance of a Patient with Schizophrenia through Collaborative Behavioral Therapy. *Psychiatric Services*, 53(3):255-257, 2002.

James, R.S., Sharp, W.S., Bastain, T.M., Lee, P.P., Walter, J.M., Czarnolewski, M., & Castellanos, F.X. Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of Single-Dose Amphetamine Formulations in ADHD. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 40(11):1268-1276, 2001.

Kessler, R., Koretz, D., Merikangas, K., & Wang, P. The Epidemiology of Mental Disorders. In: Bruce Lubotsky, Levin, B.L. & Hennessy, K.D. (eds.). Mental Health Services: A Public Health Perspective, 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, in press.

Kopnisky, K.L., & Hyman, S.E. Psychiatry in the Post-Genomic Era. *The Economics of Neuroscience*, 4:27, 2002.

DIVISION OF NEUROSCIENCE AND BASIC BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE (DNBBS)

Workshops/Meetings

Dr. Dennis Glanzman, Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience Research Program, co-organized and attended a scientific workshop on "Synchronization and Oscillatory Behavior in Networks of Neurons" held March 15-17 at the Institute for Non-Linear Science, University of California at San Diego.

Dr. Israel Lederhendler, Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience Research Program, organized and convened a workshop "Perspectives on the Role of Sleep In Memory" on December 3-4, 2001. The purpose of this meeting was to promote interactions between sleep researchers and cognitive neuroscientists in the evaluation of current approaches linking sleep with cognitive performance and the retention of memories.

Dr. Lederhendler gave an invited presentation to the presidents of the member societies of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences, at their annual meeting on December 8, 2001. He spoke on "Future Research Directions for Integrating Neuroscience with Behavioral and Social Science."

Drs. Steven Moldin, Hemin Chin, and Michael Huerta, together with NIH staff from NIDA and NINDS, organized a workshop entitled "Setting Priorities for Functional Molecular Neuroanatomy in the Post-Genomic Era" that was held on January 10-11. The meeting focused on the molecular neuroanatomy of the mouse and the intent was to seek advice from the participants with varying mixes of neuroanatomy and gene expression expertise regarding the immediate needs and long-term goals of molecular neuroanatomy projects that NIH supports. Over 40 invitees (including two Nobel laureates) with expertise in animal disease models, brain development, and bioinformatics met over a 2-day period to consider how researchers can integrate efficiently information on neuroanatomy, genes, and gene products across the whole brain, the whole genome, and the lifespan; accelerate this integration by using knowledge of other species; focus efforts on gene expression versus protein expression; and translate neuroanatomic and genetic information into new biological insights and medical advances.

Dr. Beth-Anne Sieber of the Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience Research Branch organized a scientific panel entitled "Springtime for Glia" at the 2002 Winter Conference on Brain Research on January 26-February 2. This session highlighted recent discoveries in the field of glial biology, including newly discovered facets of neuronal-glial interactions in cell differentiation, migration, synaptic signaling, and maintenance of neural circuitry. Discussion focused on how these discoveries impact upon our understanding of CNS function relevant to both health and disease, including roles in development, cognitive function, neurodegeneration, and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Genetics Update

An Update on NIMH Activities in Mouse Genetics and Genomics

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Funded under RFA MH99-007, research resources (mutant mice and phenotypic data) are currently being generated by three mutagenesis and phenotyping facilities that focus on abnormalities in nervous system function and behavior: Northwestern University Neurogenomics Project, Northwestern University - U01 MH61915; Tennessee Mouse Genome Consortium, University of Tennessee, Memphis - U01 MH61971; and the Neuroscience Mutagenesis Facility, the Jackson Laboratory - U01 NS41215. Notice MH-01-011 has been issued to announce that some mutant mice or cryopreserved germplasm from mutant mice might be available soon for distribution directly from three mutagenesis facilities. Thus far, 5 mutant mouse lines from the Jackson Lab have been distributed to 10 different investigators.

An Update on the Brain Molecular Anatomy Project (BMAP)

A contract (N01MH12006; M. Bento Soares, Principal Investigator) was awarded to the University of Iowa for the discovery of novel genes expressed in the developing mouse nervous system. This contract requires the production of high-quality, representative full-length cDNA libraries from specific anatomical regions of the mouse nervous system at different developmental stages to identify and discover the genes whose expression is restricted spatially and temporally during development. Since September 2001, when the project started, 24,197 5' and 3' EST (Expressed Sequence Tag) sequences from 7 size-selected cDNA libraries that are enriched for full-length transcripts have been generated and submitted to the National Center for Biotechnology Information's GenBank. Selection and sequence determination of those cDNA clones that are likely to contain full-length inserts are currently underway. A workshop was held in January 2002 to discuss future directions of this and related initiatives.

Other Activities

DNBBS staff members have been active participants in ongoing NIH-wide efforts to implement basic research on human embryonic stem cells (HESC) within existing NIH guidelines. The study of the basic biology of stem cells, including HESCs, holds significant promise for our understanding of the normative processes of human brain development as well as how these processes may be altered in mental and behavioral disorders. Dr. Sieber has served as the NIMH liaison to the NIH HESC Implementation Committee, which in addition to oversight of policy implementation, has developed initiatives sponsored by multiple Institutes and Centers to promote improved technology as well as training opportunities for interested researchers. NIMH participation in these NIH community efforts includes small business innovative research initiatives (Dr. Huerta) and training initiatives (Dr. Goldschmidts), as well as several program announcements to promote basic research. On February 12, Dr. Steve Foote and Dr. Sieber met with the General Secretary, Scientific Council for Medicine of the Swedish Research Council, Dr. Harriet Wallenberg-Henriksson, to discuss collaborative opportunities for Swedish and U.S. scientists. Sweden has developed a large proportion of the stem cell lines that are approved under current policy, representing an important resource for Division of Intramural Research Programs (IRP) and extramural scientists. Continuing NIMH efforts focus on dissemination of information and resources to the extramural community.

Staff Publication

Chin, H. "Molecular Basis of R-Type Calcium Channels in Central Amygdala Neurons of the Mouse." In: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)*, 99:3276-3281, 2002.

DIVISION OF SERVICES AND INTERVENTION RESEARCH (DSIR)

Workshops/Meetings

Dr. Gonzales presented Grand Rounds at the Welch Center, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, on January 16.

On January 22-23, the Services and Clinical Epidemiology Research Branch, led by Drs. Heather Ringeisen and David Chambers, convened a workgroup to discuss interdisciplinary research on "Dissemination and Implementation in Children's Mental Health Services Research." This meeting was in response to the NIMH National Advisory Mental Health Council report "**Blueprint for Change: Research on Child and Adolescent Mental Health**" that called for an increased focus on dissemination and implementation research. The complexity of dissemination and implementation processes likely requires an interdisciplinary group of child services researchers to work with a variety of interdisciplinary scientists. Future scientific efforts will likely require both qualitative and quantitative methods. Meeting discussions identified several areas for future focus: (1) continued efforts to connect mental health services researchers with interdisciplinary scientists outside of mental health; (2) increased opportunities to connect local or state providers with services researchers; (3) avenues to disseminate knowledge gained through community-based implementation processes; and (4) training opportunities for child mental health services

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researchers in dissemination and implementation processes.

On February 8, Drs. Karen Oliver and David Chambers and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute (NASMHPD), Inc., held a workshop "What Do We Know About Implementing Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) and Where Can We Go From Here?" in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Gonzales presented at the closing plenary session of the annual meeting of NASMHPD on February 11.

Dr. Chambers traveled to Oxford, England, in March to present a paper entitled "Influences on Clinical Practice Change and Evidence-Based Medicine in the US and UK," as part of the International Conference on Organizational Behavior in Health Care. This was based on his own research on the factors affecting implementation of evidence-based practice in a wide variety of clinical settings. In addition, Dr. Chambers chaired a session on "Leadership in Health Care" and met with members of the Evidence-Based Centre for Mental Health to discuss potential collaborative work.

The Services Research and Clinical Epidemiology Branch sponsored the 15th International Research Conference on Mental Health Services entitled "Evidence in Mental Health Services Research: What Types, How Much and Then What?" in Washington, DC, on April 1-3. The conference was co-chaired by Dr. Naihua Duan, UCLA, and Dr. Gonzales.

Clinical Trials

Pediatric, adult, and geriatric clinical trials are proceeding on schedule. Funding for the current clinical trial contracts was increased to allow for genetics studies.

The bipolar trial [Systematic Treatment Enhancement Program for Bipolar Disorder (STEP-BD)] has enrolled (as of the end of April) over 2,000 subjects in the registry. A meeting and program review of the scientific advisory board was held, and the Principal Investigator is developing plans to implement the recommendations regarding priority setting and budget reallocation. Based on a special initiative and additional funding provided by the NIH National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Howard University was added as a STEP-BD site in 2001. Contracts have been executed, IRB approval obtained, a research team has been assembled, and research staff have been trained and certified. Patient accrual at this site is just getting underway, with the first subjects expected in May 2002. The antipsychotics trial in schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease [Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (CATIE) project] has recruited approximately 40 percent of the subjects. A well-attended and very productive investigators' meeting was held in March. A meeting of the scientific advisory board is scheduled for summer. The treatment-resistant depression trial [Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression (STAR*D)] has enrolled (as of the end of April) nearly 700 subjects. A meeting of the scientific advisors for that study was held in May. Websites for each of the trials are accessible through the NIMH Website **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/studies/index.cfm**.

The NIH Hypericum Depression Study was published in the April 10 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. This study was a cooperative effort between NIMH and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, with the latter providing most of the funds. The efficacy of an extract of hypericum perforatum (a herb also known as St. John's wort) in treating adult outpatients with major depression of moderate severity was tested in a randomized trial that included both inactive (placebo) and active (sertraline) controls. The study was led by Dr. Jonathan Davidson, Duke University, and conducted at 12 sites across the country. A total of 340 patients were randomized. The results did not support the efficacy of hypericum in major depression of moderate severity. The conclusions were limited by the low sensitivity of the study for detecting antidepressant activity. In fact, sertraline was not statistically superior to placebo on the primary outcome measures, while it was superior on secondary measures. Hypericum, however, showed no efficacy across any measures.

As of April 2002, the Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study (TADS), which is conducted at 12 sites (Principal Investigator: Dr. John March, Duke University) and funded under an NIMH contract, had enrolled a total of 283 patients. This represents 66 percent of the total sample (N=432) needed to test the relative efficacy of pharmacotherapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and combined treatment in the treatment of adolescents with major depression.

Staff Publications

Dopson, S., Locock, L., Chambers, D., & Gabbay, J. Implementation of Evidence-Based Medicine: Evaluation of the Promoting Action on Clinical Effectiveness Programme. *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*, 6(1):23-31, 2001.

Hohmann, A.A., & Shear, M.K. Community-Based Intervention Research: Coping With the "Noise" of Real Life in Study

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Design. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159: 201-207, 2002.

Locock, L., Dopson, S., Chambers, D., & Gabbay J. Understanding the Role of Opinion Leaders in Improving Clinical Effectiveness. *Social Science and Medicine*, 53(6):745-57, 2001.

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NIMH PERSONNEL

Office of the Director (OD)

Dr. Wayne Fenton, Acting Deputy Director of NIMH, will now also take on the role of Acting Director of the Office of Science Policy and Program Planning.

After serving for nearly two years as Acting Director of NIMH's Office of Science Policy and Program Planning, Ms. Gemma Weiblinger, Special Assistant to the Director, NIMH, has been appointed Director of the newly established Office of Constituency Relations and Intergovernmental Activities (OCRIA). Ms. Weiblinger brings to her new position experience and skills developed over a wide-ranging career on Capitol Hill, as well as in the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and NIMH. The OCRIA will oversee the Institute's public liaison and outreach activities, manage interactions with patient advocacy, professional, scientific, and community-based organizations with specific interests in the NIMH missions and programs, and serve as a principal point of contact within the Institute for intergovernmental activities, including State and local governments and other areas of the Federal Government. The Institute's Constituency Outreach and Education Program, headed by Elaine Baldwin, will become part of the new Office. As a result of these changes, the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, headed by Clarissa Wittenberg, will become the Office of Communications.

Dr. Eve Moscicki has been designated Acting Associate Director for Child and Adolescent Research at the NIMH and will chair the NIMH Children's Research Consortium. Dr. Moscicki is an epidemiologist and received her Doctor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees from The Johns Hopkins University. She has served as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Surgeon General, as Chief of the NIMH Prevention Research Branch, and as Associate Director for Prevention Research in DSIR, NIMH. She is the founding and former Chair of the NIMH Suicide Research Consortium and former co-Chair of the NIMH Prevention Research Consortium. She is the Federal Coordinator for the National Evaluation of Safe Schools/Healthy Students Interdepartmental Initiative, sponsored by a joint partnership among the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services. She holds the rank of Captain in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and was recently awarded the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, one of the highest awards that can be earned by a Commissioned Officer, for her work in developing the national action agenda in children's mental health.

Division of Extramural Activities (DEA)

Dr. Benjamin Xu has recently joined the Review Branch. He received his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1997 and thereafter has been a research fellow at the NINDS. Since 2001, Dr. Xu has also been a visiting scientist at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology. Using behavioral and neuroimaging methods, Dr. Xu has been studying the relationship between neural systems, language, and memory, and he has clinical experience conducting neuropsychological assessments of patients with language and memory disorders.

Division of Mental Disorders, Behavioral Research and AIDS (DMDBA)

Dr. Timothy Cuerdon has joined the NIMH as the new Chief of the Adherence and Behavioral Change Research Program in the Health and Behavioral Science Research Branch. He will build the research portfolio on adherence to interventions for mental disorders and on research ethics in the mental disorders domain. He comes from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration), where he was Division Director, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Priority Management and Evaluation Division. He holds a doctorate in social psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Dr. Kathy L. Kopnisky recently joined the CMHRA. Dr. Kopnisky's graduate research was concentrated on examining the signal transduction mechanisms by which the hormone, angiotensin II, modulates endotoxin and cytokine-stimulated inducible nitric oxide synthase expression. During her first postdoctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, she studied

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the mechanisms and structural determinants by which the HIV-1 envelope protein, gp41, promotes neurotoxicity and potentially HIV-associated dementia. Additionally, during her fellowship at the NIMH, she conducted research in the area of neuronal apoptosis and neuroprotection, with emphasis on the mechanisms of lithium's actions on brain cells. Prior to joining the AIDS Center, Dr. Kopnisky worked as a neurobiologist in support of the NIMH Director, where her major responsibilities included writing book chapters and journal article reviews, participating in drug addiction laboratory research, and writing for non-scientific audiences on topics of NIMH-funded research advances.

Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science (DNBBS)

Ms. Jamie D. Driscoll has joined DNBBS as a program analyst in the Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience Research Branch. Ms. Driscoll recently graduated magna cum laude from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She will assist in the running of the branch's contract programs and in the analysis and management of the branch's portfolio.

Division of Services and Intervention Research (DSIR)

Dr. Euthymia Hibbs, Chief, Psychosocial Treatments Research Program, Child and Adolescent Treatment and Preventive Intervention Research Branch, retired in April.

Division of Intramural Research Programs (DIRP)

Staff Tenure and New Recruits to the NIMH/IRP FY 2002

Dr. James Blair was selected for a tenure track position in the new Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program (MAP) following a nationwide search and is now here. He received his Ph.D. degree in psychology at the University College of London (UCL). From 1993-96, Dr. Blair was awarded a Wellcome Trust Mental Health Research Fellowship, at the Medical Research Council Cognitive Development Unit. Since 1997, he has been an Honorary Scientist at the Department of Clinical Neuropsychology, National Hospital. From 1996-2000, Dr. Blair served as a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, UCL; and in 1999, he joined the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, UCL, where he was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Dr. Blair's research work is divided into two principal areas: determining the nature and neurobiology of the emotional dysfunction shown by (1) psychopathic individuals and (2) individuals with acquired sociopathy following orbitofrontal cortex lesions. All of his work has received substantial funding from the Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, the National Health Service and the Home Office. Dr. Blair's research approaches the study of affect from the perspectives of cognitive neuroscience (both neuropsychology and functional imaging), psychopharmacology, and, most recently, molecular genetics. Dr. Blair's work is notable in that it is highly theoretically driven and associated with the development of a variety of novel paradigms. His work combines basic science studies involving functional imaging and studies with neurological patient populations. The goal of this work is to help clarify the nature of the emotion systems and perform pharmacological manipulations of these systems in healthy individuals to assess treatment implications for those with psychiatric conditions. Dr. Blair is clearly among the very top researchers in affective cognitive neuroscience in the world, and his theories are having considerable impact on the field. This represents a great opportunity for NIMH and NIH to profit from Dr. Blair's research expertise.

Dr. Mike Flynn joined the staff in January, after a nationwide search was conducted for a candidate to replace the Chief, Veterinary Medicine and Resources Branch. Dr. Flynn received his D.V.M. degree in 1980 from Oklahoma State University. From 1985-89, he served in the U.S. Army Post-Doctoral Preceptorship Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine, Walter Reed Army Institute of research. Dr. Flynn is a Diplomat of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (1989) and of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (1990). He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Continuing Education Award in 1987, 1989, and 1996 from the American Society of Laboratory Practitioners. He is a member of many professional societies. Dr. Flynn has extensive experience in the management of large comprehensive animal resource programs supporting very active biomedical research, teaching, and diagnostic activities. From 1991-95, he was Chief of the Primate Unit at Poolesville, Veterinary Resources Program, National Center for Research Resources (NCRR). From 1995-96, he served as Acting Chief, Laboratory of Animal Services, NCRR, in Bethesda, followed by 3 years of service as Chief of the Laboratory Animal Medicine Section, National Cancer Institute. Since 1999, Dr. Flynn has served as Chief, Animal Science Branch, NCI. We were very fortunate to have recruited such a talented and experienced veterinarian. His expertise is much needed and will be highly valued by the NIMH investigators, as well as by the NIH community.

Dr. Francis McMahon was selected for another tenure track position in the MAP, following a nationwide search, and is now on board. He received his M.D. degree from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1987. From 1987-89, he received his internship training at the Francis Scott Key Medical Center, in Baltimore. From 1988-91, he received his residency training at Johns Hopkins, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, in Baltimore. From 1991-93, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Psychiatry and Genetics at Johns Hopkins, under the mentorship of Drs. J. Raymond

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DePaulo and Reed R. Pyeritz. From 1993-97, Dr. McMahon was Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, and from 1997-98, he was Associate Professor of Psychiatry, again at Johns Hopkins. Since 1998, he has been Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago. Dr. McMahon's research interests are in the field of the genetics of bipolar affective disorder (BPAD), which he will continue to pursue at NIMH. It is evident that, throughout his research career, he has been driven by an abiding interest in the clinical phenotype of BPAD and those it victimizes. His research includes an ongoing study of families with this illness. In Chicago, Dr. McMahon was successful in garnering independent support for his laboratory through an Independent Scientist Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) and a Mallinckrodt Foundation Scholar's Award. Recently, he took over a second, multi-center BPAD family study, a part of the NIMH Genetics Initiative.

Dr. Alexei Morozov was selected for a tenure track position in the Laboratory of Molecular Pathophysiology, MAP, following a nationwide search, and will arrive very soon. Dr. Morozov received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1996, after first being in the Institute of Molecular Biology at the Russian Academy of Sciences. From 1996-2000, he was a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Eric Kandel's laboratory at Columbia University in New York. Since 2000, he has been an Associate Research Scientist at the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, in New York. From 1993-96, Dr. Morozov received a Graduate College Fellowship from the University of Illinois at Chicago; from 1993-95, he received an award from the Dorothea Fleming Student Research Fund, also at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Morozov will be responsible for setting up a research program utilizing transgenic animals and condition knockout animals to investigate the role of the neurotrophic signaling cascade in regulating complex central nervous system functions, including higher order behaviors. He will be involved in research aimed at elucidating disease-induced cellular changes, which regulate neuroplasticity and cellular resilience. He is interested in understanding how individual molecules contribute to the plasticity changes at various levels of neuronal organization ranging from a single neuron to neuronal circuits.

Mr. R. J. Ruff joined the staff as the new Associate Director for Administration in February. He fills the position that was previously held by Bob Dennis, before he retired. Mr. Ruff has an MBA degree in management and had a very distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, where he most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Air Force Science and Technology Installation at Brooks Air Force Base. Mr. Ruff is a proven innovator in science management and has just the right combination of background and experience to lead us into the next phase of our organizational revitalization program.

Dr. Jun Shen was selected for a tenure track position in the Molecular Imaging Branch, MAP, and Head of the MRS (Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy) Facility following a nationwide search. Dr. Shen received his Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1995, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From 1995-96, Dr. Shen was a Postdoctoral Associate, Magnetic Resonance Center, Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. From 1996-98, he was an Associate Research Scientist and Head of Spectroscopy Development Core, Magnetic Resonance Center, Yale University. From 1998-99, Dr. Shen was a Consultant, Magnetic Resonance Center, Yale University. From l998-2000, Dr. Shen was a Senior Staff Scientist, Center for Advanced Brain Imaging, Division of Medical Physics, at The Nathan S. Kline Institute (NKI) for Psychiatric Research, Orangeburg, New York, and Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY. Dr. Shen was promoted to Research Scientist at NKI and named the Head of Spectroscopy for the Center for Advanced Brain Imaging. He was promoted to Assistant Professor of Radiology and Psychiatry at the New York University Medical School, receiving tenure at NKI. Dr. Shen is the recipient of a NARSAD Young Investigator Award, 2000-2002. Dr. Shen will conduct research using MRS to study the brain in humans and relevant animal models at NIMH. His research interests are broadly defined as the application of magnetic resonance spectroscopy and imaging to brain function and diseases. He is particularly interested in the development of novel spectroscopic techniques and their application in psychiatric and neurological studies. At NKI, Dr. Shen focused on four areas of research: (1) magnetic resonance spectroscopy study of phencyclidine-induced glutamate surge in rat brain; (2) development of MRS methods for chemical shift imaging of GABA in the brain; (3) design of novel RF pulses for spectroscopic applications; and (4) automatic adjustment of all first- and second-order shims for slices of arbitrary orientation. He will be an excellent choice in building a first-rate spectroscopy program.

Dr. Ted Usdin received tenure on April 1. Dr. Usdin was an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University, where he majored in biophysics. He worked in the laboratory of Dr. Solomon Snyder for 1 year after graduating, studying basic pharmacology. He then went on to earn M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the Medical Scientist Training Program at Washington University in St. Louis, where he worked in the laboratory with Dr. Gerald Fischbach. There he searched for a factor that regulated acetylcholine receptor synthesis at the neuromuscular junction. His work led to the identification of acetylcholine receptor-inducing activity (ARIA) (now known as neuregulin), and it has had a lasting impact in the field of developmental neurobiology. Dr. Usdin joined the NIMH Laboratory of Cell Biology in 1990, after completing a residency in psychiatry at Stanford University. He was placed in a tenure track position when it was created in 1994. At that time, he decided to work on the secretin family or Type II G-protein coupled receptors. He cloned three previously unidentified receptors in this family and identified their ligands. Since then, he has established himself as a nationally recognized independent investigator.

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Dr. Benjamin White was selected for a tenure track position in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology following a nationwide search. Dr. White earned his Ph.D. degree in neural sciences from Washington University, St. Louis, in 1991. He then joined the Yale University Pharmacology Department as a Postdoctoral Research Associate with Dr. Leonard Kaczmarek; in 1999, he began a part-time association with Dr. Haig Keshishian, also at Yale. Dr. White's work with Dr. Kaczmarek focused on details of ion channel structure, function, and modulation and kindled an interest in re-engineering ion channels to manipulate neuronal function. Working between these laboratories, Dr. White successfully developed an "electrical knock-out" procedure by redesigning the Shaker K+ channel to act as a current shunt to genetically target specific cells in Drosophila. He found that expressing the modified channel at incrementally higher levels leads to graded suppression of excitability of targeted cells, up to and including complete electrical knock-out. Dr. White now intends to apply this technique to systems neuroscience by genetically targeted suppression of neuronal activity in Drosophila visual processing. He will also investigate the cellular basis of simple behaviors in the fly that might serve as a model for mapping neuronal function in vertebrates. Dr. White has been successful in garnering independent support as a recipient of an NIH National Research Service Award, the Charles E. Culpeper Biomedical Pilot Initiative grant, The Eppley Foundation for Research Postdoctoral grant, and a National Science Foundation Small Grant for Exploratory Research to fund his studies.

APPENDIX NIMH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Requests for Applications (RFAs) (see **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/grants/rfa.cfm**)

MH-02-012-Viral Genetics in HIV/CNS Disease: Implications for Pathogenesis
MH-03-005-Autism Research Centers of Excellence: The STAART Program
HD-02-005-Early Childhood Education and School Readiness Planning Grants
HG-02-004-Increasing the Efficiency of Building Physical Maps from Clone Libraries for Genomic Studies
HG-02-005-Large Scale Genotyping for the Haplotype Map of the Human Genome
HG-02-001-A Central Database of Protein Sequence and Function
OD-02-003-Human Subjects Research Enhancements Program
OD-02-002-Specialized Centers of Research on Sex and Gender Factors Affecting Women's Mental Health

Program Announcements (PAs) (see **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/grants/pamenu.cfm**)
PAR-02-062- Building Translational Research in Behavioral Science
PAR-02-087-Mental Health Research Education Grants
PA-02-028-Development of PET and SPECT Ligands for Brain Imaging (SBIR AWARD)
PA-02-045-Identifying Functional Links Between the Immune System and Brain Function Including Behavior
PA-02-046-Innovation Grants for AIDS Research
PA-02-047-Research on Co-Morbid Mental and Other Physical Disorders
PA-02-054-Short-Term Courses in Human Embryonic Stem Cell Culture Techniques
PA-02-060-Structural Biology of Membrane Proteins
PA-02-061-Translational Research Grants in Behavioral Science
PA-02-071-Innovative Technologies for Enhancing Function for Individuals with Disabilities
PA-02-072-Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences

Notices (NOTs) (see **http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/index.html**
MH-02-001-NIMH Policy Update for Career Awards (K-Series)
OD-02-028-National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipend Increase and Other Budgetary Changes Effective for Fiscal Year 2002

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) (see **http://www.nimh.nih.gov/grants/indexcon.cfm**)
NIMH-02-SS-0003-NIMH Information Support Services
NIMH-02-SBIR-PhaseI (formerly NIMH-02-DS-206X)-Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) for Mental Health Interventions
NIMH-02-DB-0005-NIMH Toxicological Evaluation of Novel Ligands Program
NIMH-02-DM-0006-Measurement and Treatment Development Activities on Cognition in Schizophrenia

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